

## Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, May 30, 1899

1331 Conn. Ave., May 30th 1899. My dear Alec.

I was very glad to get your satisfactory long letters this morning. I do feel very strongly that your work deserves a great deal of consideration. I think a great deal more of it than perhaps you think that I do. It is quite true that the childrens lives lie all before them, and I do think that it would be unfair to take you from your work just to give them a summer's pleasure. They may be able to take all the travelling they want bye and bye. But it is just because all their lives with all the years hold of weal and woe, is before that i feel so anxious that something should be done for them now.. It would be hard for you to lose a year, but think of your child's life spoiled for ever for want of something we can do for her now.. I do not mean to say that a foreign journey is a necessity for either of them this year. But I do feel that if ever they need our care it is now. After all they have not been very much trouble to you in the past. I have sent them away to boarding school that you might not have to leave Baddeck. Put the many extra months that you have had in the past in that way against what you have lost in the last year or two. What I feel is that they cannot find anything in Baddeck to satisfy them this summer. Elsie will think more of Gilbert, and Marian will not have any standard to judge by if her turn came next winter. Are you willing that Elsie should drift into an engagement with Gilbert without further opportunity of seeing other men? The trip to Japan did a great deal more good in taat way than you imagine, I thought that a trip to Europe under your guidance and with the opportunities you alone could give them, might complete the work. At least I would feel that we had done all we could, and that the result might be left to their own judgement.

If after carefully thinking over all these arguments yoo still feel that your own work demands your first consideration, I will say no more. Only remember that Elsie and Daisy

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are also works of yours and that they too will live after you do. You started them before you started aerodynamics, so they ought to be finished first!. As for my taking them aboard alone that would not answer the purpose at all. They would have the summer's pleasure, not accomplish the object I have in view, the meeting of people.. To take them to Baddeck is not to give them rest or postpone the decision, it is to clinch the matter. Do you want it clinched with Gilbert? He is very nice, I don't know that Elsie could do better 3 I should like to be sure.

I am very glad to know that you have been so well this year, and that you are doing so well with your experiments. It is certainly wonderful that the motors are able to do so much more in one position than in another. I do wish that you would try the experiment at least for one month, of having six or eight thoroughly competent workmen in the Laboratory, and see what the result would be. You talk so much of spending so much, so many years of your life in the experiments Why not try for once to see if by having a lot of men you cannot advance into one month the labors of several. Please think of this. You cannot tell how it would work until you have tried it, and you have never tried.

Mr. McCurdy's Ebedec is pursuing the course of all new inventions, but just now a very slow one. I am sure however that he will really push this one into practical operation. I am glad the house-boat is so satisfactory. Please don't make it so complete that there will not be anything left to do whenever I come up, so that I shall feel like a mere visitor. I want to put a Japanese roof in it and a piazza over the water and have sides of the roof project so that boats can be hung up from them.

Good bye. Thank you father very much for his letter.

Yours, Mabel. P.S. How do you like having letters from Mr. M c Curdy? What the difference?

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I will have that only this sheet from my dictation!